

Appl. No. 10/766,989

Docket No. 1232-5267

Reply to Office Action dated December 16, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-5 are pending. Please amend claims 1 and 5 and add new claim 6 as shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

**Listing Of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** An ink jet printing apparatus having carriage scanning means for moving and scanning a carriage on which a print head that ejects ink is mounted, print medium feeding means for feeding one of a plurality of stacked print media, and print medium conveying means for conveying said print medium fed by said print medium feeding means to a position where printing can be carried out using said print head, the apparatus comprising:

control means for causing ~~concurrent~~ performance of a print medium feeding and conveying operation of continuously conveying said print medium while shifting said print medium from said print medium feeding means to said print medium conveying means and causing in parallel, performance of a preliminary ejecting operation of said print head during a part of the period of the performance of the print medium feeding and conveying operation,

said control means providing control such that not all of driving of said print medium feeding means, driving of said print medium conveying means[,] and said preliminary ejecting operation are simultaneously performed.

**Claim 2 (original):** An ink jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said preliminary ejecting operation is performed concurrently with said operation performed by said print medium conveying means to convey said print medium the position where printing can be carried out using said print head, said conveying operation being included in said print medium feeding and conveying operation.

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**Claim 3 (original):** An ink jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said preliminary ejecting operation includes

a step of allowing said carriage scanning means to move said carriage to a position where said print head can carry out preliminary ejection,

a step of allowing said print head to carry out preliminary ejection, and

a step of allowing said carriage scanning means to move said carriage to a position where said print head can execute printing on said print medium.

**Claim 4 (original):** An ink jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ink jet printing apparatus has

a first driving source that electrically drives said carriage scanning means,

a second driving source that electrically drives said print medium feeding means, and

a third driving source that electrically drives said print medium conveying means, and

not all of said three driving sources are simultaneously driven.

**Claim 5 (currently amended):** A preliminary-ejecting control method of an ink jet printing apparatus having carriage scanning means for moving and scanning a carriage on which a print head that ejects ink is mounted, print medium feeding means for feeding one of a plurality of stacked print media, and print medium conveying means for conveying said print medium fed by said print medium feeding means to a position where printing can be carried out using said print head, the control method comprising:

a first step of moving a carriage on which a print head that ejects ink is mounted, to a position where preliminary ejection can be carried out;

a second step of allowing said print head to carry out preliminary ejection;

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~~a third step of moving said carriage to a position where said print head can execute printing on a print medium;~~

~~a fourth step of feeding one of a plurality of stacked print media; and~~

~~a fifth step of conveying said print medium fed by said fourth step to a position where printing can be carried out using said print head, and~~

~~wherein three or more of said first to fifth steps are not simultaneously executed~~

a step of controlling for causing performance of a print medium feeding and conveying operation of continuously conveying said print medium while shifting said print medium from said print medium feeding means to said print medium conveying means, and causing in parallel performance of a preliminary ejecting operation during a part of the period of the performance of the print medium feeding and conveying operation;

wherein not all of driving of said print medium feeding means, driving of said print medium conveying means and said preliminary ejecting operation are simultaneously performed.

**Claim 6 (new):** An ink jet printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said control means providing control such that said preliminary ejecting operation is started after said driving of said print medium feeding means has completed.